



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

September 30, 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PUBLIC DRINKING WATER MONITORING WAIVER PROGRAM APPLICATION 2020-2022

Dear Public Water Supplier:

Enclosed you will find the instruction sheet and the application form for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program's 2020-2022 Monitor Waiver Program. MassDEP encourages eligible systems to take advantage of this waiver program. The program has been in existence since 1993 and provides significant cost savings to public water systems (PWS) and their customers by reducing monitoring requirements for synthetic organic contaminants (SOC), volatile organic contaminants (VOC), inorganic contaminants (IOC), and perchlorate while maintaining public health protection.

We are also approaching a new 3-year water quality monitoring compliance period so look for your system's new water quality sampling schedule for the 2020 through 2022 period to arrive later this year in the mail. You can find your current sampling schedule online at:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-supplier-document-search>.

We strongly encourage you to utilize the Monitoring Waiver Program and submit the simplified application for your appropriate sources by the **October 30, 2019**, deadline.

Waiver application/information can also be found online at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#monitoring-waiver-forms->

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with information on two contaminants of emerging concern: PFAS and glysophate. See attachment.

For More Information on the Monitoring Waiver Program

If you have any questions regarding this information or the application procedures please contact us.

Boston Marie Tennant 617-292-5885
CERO Paula Caron 508-767-2719
NERO Jim Persky 978-694-3227

SERO Isabel Collins 508-946-2726

WERO Cathy Wanat 413-755-2216

You may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvette dePeiza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Yvette" being more prominent.

Yvette dePeiza
Program Director, Drinking Water Program
MassDEP/BWR

Attachments

ecc: DWP Chiefs

Y/DWPArchive-2020-2022 Monitoring Waiver Application

Contaminants of emerging Concern: PFAS and Glyphosate

PFAS:

Below are excerpts from a letter sent out to PWSs on 2019-06-12 detailing voluntary PFAS sampling guidance. You can read the entire letter at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/06/13/letter-to-pws-update-on-pfas-testing.pdf>

- *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are emerging contaminants of significant concern. PFAS are a family of chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products.*
- *In June 2018, MassDEP issued an Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) for drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and PFHpA combined.*
- *In April 2019, MassDEP initiated the process to develop a drinking water standard for public drinking water suppliers, known as an MCL, for PFAS.*
- *In the interim period while these standards are being promulgated, MassDEP is encouraging all PWS statewide to voluntarily collect and analyze PFAS samples from the entrance points to your distribution system as soon as possible. Voluntary testing of your finished water will provide information to you, your customers, local officials, and MassDEP on whether PFAS is present in your drinking water at levels of concern.*

With the interest in PFAS and a pending MCL, if you have not already tested the entrance points to your distribution system for PFAS, it may benefit your system to voluntarily test for PFAS and develop a baseline for this group of contaminants. If your PWS does conduct voluntary tests for PFAS, remember that any detection of PFAS must be reported in your Consumer Confidence Report. For more information for PWS on PFAS see

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-public-drinking-water-supplies-questions-and-answers/download>

Glyphosate:

The Drinking Water Program (DWP) has determined that the statewide monitoring waiver for glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup® weed killer) will remain in place at this time. The original determination for the waiver, that glyphosate binds to soils and does not travel far from the site of application, has not been challenged or changed.

Years of routine testing of public water systems (PWSs) in New Hampshire and Connecticut and selective testing in Massachusetts has not identified contamination in drinking water sources. However, due to the ubiquitous use of glyphosate for vegetation management, emerging health concerns and heightened public interest, DWP has reevaluated and will continue to assess this waiver to determine if any additional actions are appropriate in Massachusetts.

If your PWS is doing vegetation control you are reminded to use state-licensed applicators and to use good source water protection practices (see <https://www.mass.gov/pesticides-and-water-supply-protection>).

If your PWS conducts voluntarily tests for glyphosate, you are required to report the results to DWP. In addition, any detections of glyphosate must be reported in your Consumer Confidence Report. Our estimate of the cost of an analysis for glyphosate is less than \$100.00. MassDEP has certified several laboratories to test for glyphosate (see <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DEP/Labcert/Labcert.aspx>). More information about glyphosate is available at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/xh/glyphosate-2011.pdf>.